



Niall Blair

Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Regional Water
Minister for Trade and Industry

MEDIA RELEASE

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DROUGHT ASSISTANCE HELPING NSW FARMERS

NSW farmers are better prepared to get on with the job in dry conditions, thanks to the \$53 million the NSW Government invested into drought assistance measures last year.

This investment is part of \$100 million in programs delivered by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Rural Assistance Authority (RAA) in 2016-17, focused on mitigating risks and preparing businesses for limited rainfall.

Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair said the drought assistance allowed farmers to put in measures to protect their businesses.

“One of the ways the NSW Government is helping farmers in times of drought is by providing opportunities to improve infrastructure and on-farm productivity,” Mr Blair said.

“Last year’s \$53 million investment supported 331 primary producers prepare for drought and mitigate risks to their businesses, with the largest uptake of funds for improved sheds, silos and water infrastructure.

“With below-average winter rainfall this year, providing farmers with the necessary tools to manage and protect their businesses has meant greater confidence coming into summer.”

RAA Director John Newcombe encouraged farmers to log onto DroughtHub - a one-stop shop for useful information on assistance measures, climatic conditions and practical tools for primary industries.

“I encourage all NSW producers to continue to consider preparedness measures as a regular part of their business planning and to familiarise themselves with DPI’s DroughtHub website,” Mr Newcombe said.

The NSW Government’s \$300 million Drought Strategy was introduced in 2015 and provides measures to help farmers prepare for drought conditions.

For more information on assistance and support visit www.droughthub.nsw.gov.au or call the Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593.

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